

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
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R 261232Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4550

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0840

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GY  
SUBJECT: MORE ON BURNHAM SPEECH AT YOUTH CONGRESS

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 727, (B) STATE 85414

SUMMARY: UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT OF BURNHAM'S APRIL 10 SPEECH INDICATES THAT THE "RACIAL AMITY" THEME WHICH HAD BEEN EMPHASIZED IN GOG RELEASES, PRESS COVERAGE, AND EDITORIALS HERE WAS ONLY ONE PART OF A LONG (60 PARAGRAPH) SPEECH WHICH ALSO INCLUDED COMMENTS ON DESTABILIZATION, THE LATTER ESSENTIALLY AS QUOTED BY PRELA. THE HANDLING OF THIS SPEECH WAS TYPICAL OF BURNHAM'S METHOD OF OPERATION, I.E., HE DELIVERED A LONG, RAMBLING, OFF-THE-CUFF SPEECH, THEN DISSEMINATED TO THE PRESS A SECTION -- IN THIS CASE, THE RACIAL AMITY THEME -- THE PART WHICH WOULD FIT WITH THE POLITICAL LINE HE IS PUBLICLY ESPOUSING AT THE TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER RECEIVING REF B, WHICH GAVE TOTALLY DIFFERENT SLANT TO CONTENT OF BURNHAM'S APRIL 10 SPEECH THAN HAD GUYANESE PRESS, WE CHECKED AGAIN WITH JOURNALISTS, BUT THEIR INFORMATION REINFORCED OFFICIAL VERSION WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS. FINALLY, I MENTIONED THE PRELA ACTICLE TO FONMIN WILLS, SAYING IT DIFFERED TOTALLY FROM REPORTS OF THE SPEECH WHICH HAD APPEARED  
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IN GUYANA. WILLS, WHO HAD BEEN ABROAD AT THE TIME AND WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE SPEECH, CALLED SOMEONE ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF AND REQUESTED A COPY OF THE SPEECH. INITIALLY, THE PERSON WAS RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO SEND WILLS A COPY, BUT WILLS SUCCESSFULLY INSISTED, AND OBTAINED A COPY OF THE SPEECH AS TRANSCRIBED FROM A TAPE-RECORDING. HE GAVE ME A COPY

OF IT BUT ASKED THAT I NOT LET ANYONE KNOW HE HAD GIVEN IT TO ME. HE ALSO ASKED THAT IN READING IT, I KEEP IN MIND THAT THE PM HAD BEEN SPEAKING TO THE MOST RADICAL SECTOR OF PNC SUPPORT. BURNHAM HAD SPOKEN FOR 75 MINUTES WITHOUT A WRITTEN TEXT.

2. MUCH OF THE SPEECH WAS AN EXHORTATION TO THE YOUNG SOCIALIST MOVEMENT MEMBERS TO BE GOOD SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARIES AND WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUYANA. IT ALSO DESCRIBED PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE YSM. OF A TOTAL OF 60 PARAGRAPHS, EIGHT CONCERNED DESTABILIZATION AND WERE REPORTED ALMOST IN THEIR ENTIRETY BY PERLA. HOWEVER, THE SPEECH DID NOT FOCUS PRIMARILY ON DESTABILIZATION AS THE PRELA ARTICLE STATES IT DID. NOR WAS RACIAL AMITY THE PRIMARY THEME AS THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND GOG PRESS RELEASES HAD IMPLIED.

3. BURNHAM'S WAS A POLITICIANS'S SPEECH. HE IDENTIFIED WITH HIS LISTENERS, TELLING THEM HE FELT AS THOUGH HE WERE 22 YEARS OLD AGAIN AND IDENTIFYING WITH THEIR YOUTHFUL RADICALISM. WHILE SAYING THEY SHOULD BE GOOD REVOLUTIONARIES, HE TOLD THEM THEY SHOULD NOT GET HUNG UP ON "SHIBBOLETHS" OF DOCTRINE BUT SHOULD WORK HARD AND PRAGMATICALLY TO DEVELOP THEIR COUNTRY AND IMPLEMENT THE REVOLUTION.

4. ONE INTERESTING POINT WHICH IS TYPICAL OF BURNHAM WAS THE FINAL POINT HE MADE IN THE SPEECH. IT WAS AN ADMONITION TO THE YSM MEMBERS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE

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WAY TO A GOAL -- BE THAT GOAL "HEAVEN, HELL OR SOCIALISM" -- IS NOT NECESSARILY A STRAIGHT LINE, BUT SOMETIMES A ZIG-ZAG COURSE. HE CRITICIZED "PURE" REVOLUTIONARIES WHO END UP HAVING NO FOLLOWING. HE SAID HE HAD ARGUED WITH SOME YSM MEMBERS WHO THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT SEEK RELATIONSHIPS WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. HE ENDED BY TELLING THEM THAT A COMMITMENT TO STRATEGY RATHER THAN TACTICS WAS MOST IMPORTANT.

5. COMMENT: THE CONTENT OF THE SPEECH AND THE SLANT IT ACQUIRED IN THE PRESS RELEASES WERE TYPICAL OF BURNHAM'S METHOD OF OPERATION. HE WAS CAREFUL TO CATER TO THE INCLINATIONS AND PREJUDICES OF HIS POLITICAL AUDIENCE; THEN FOR BROADER PUBLIC DISSEMINATION HE SELECTED THE THEME WHICH SUITED HIS POLITICAL PURPOSE WITH THAT AUDIENCE. THUS A SPEECH WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY LEFTIST WHEN DELIVERED WAS EDITED AND PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS A MODERATE CALL FOR RACIAL AMITY AND HARD WORK. THIS LATTER THEME IS PART

OF A SERIES OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT SUPPORT OF  
THE EAST INDIAN GUYANESE. HIS FINAL POINT, MENTIONED  
ABOVE, ALTHOUGH DESIGNED TO HELP PROVIDE HIM  
WITH MANEUVERING ROOM VIS-A-VIS THE RADICALS OF HIS  
CONSTITUENCY WAS ALSO AN INDICATION OF HIS COMMITMENT TO  
SOCIALISM.  
BLACKEN

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## Message Attributes

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